

may have difficulty in completing college programs due to frequent military moves.

TA or tuition assistance. Funds provided by the Military Services or U.S. Coast Guard to pay a percentage of the charges of an educational institution for the tuition of an active duty, Reserve or National Guard member of the Military Services, or Coast Guard member, enrolled in approved courses of study during off-duty time.

Top-Up. An option, under chapter 30 of the Montgomery G.I. Bill and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, that enables active duty Service members to receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs those tuition and fee costs that exceed the amount of TA provided to the Service member by his or her Service.

Troops-to-Teachers program (TTT). A Department of Education program administered by the DoD to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education, and other high-needs subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

Voluntary education programs. Continuing, adult, or postsecondary education programs of study that Service members elect to participate in during their off-duty time, and that are available to other members of the military community.

§ 68.4 Policy.

It is DoD policy, consistent with DoD Directive 1322.08E, that:

(a) Members of the Military Services serving on active duty or members of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) shall be afforded the opportunity to complete their high school education through a state-funded or Service component sponsored program, earn an equivalency diploma, improve their academic skills or level of literacy, enroll in career and technical education schools, receive college credit for military training and experience in accordance with the American Council on Education's "Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services" (available at <http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu>), take

tests to earn college credit, and enroll in postsecondary education programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, and undergraduate and graduate degrees.

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, Service members' costs to participate in the DoD Voluntary Education Program as authorized by Section 2007 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), shall be reduced through financial support, including tuition assistance that is administered uniformly across the Military Services.

(c) Information and counseling about voluntary education programs shall be readily available and easy to access so that Service members are encouraged to make maximum use of the educational opportunities available.

(d) Institutions accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education shall be encouraged to provide degree programs on military installations and the Military Services shall facilitate their operations on the installations.

(e) To the extent that space is otherwise available, eligible adult family members of Service members, DoD civilian employees and their eligible adult family members, and military retirees may enroll in postsecondary education programs offered on a military installation at no cost to the individual Service TA programs.

§ 68.5 Responsibilities.

(a) *Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)).* The USD(P&R) shall:

(1) Monitor implementation of and ensure compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E (see <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/132208p.pdf>).

(2) Establish rates of tuition assistance (TA) to ensure uniformity across the Military Services as required by DoD Directive 1322.08E, DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1322.25 (see <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/132225p.pdf>), and this part.

(3) Establish, under the provisions of DoDI 5105.18, the Interservice Voluntary Education Board, which will be composed of full-time or permanent part-time federal employees.

(4) Maintain a program to assess the effectiveness of the voluntary education programs.

(5) Issue written guidance annually for the funding and operation of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

(b) *Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management (ASD(R&FM))*. The ASD(R&FM), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R) shall:

(1) Provide administrative assistance to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (DASD(MCFP)), in support of the voluntary education programs.

(2) Respond to matters that are referred to by the DASD(MCFP).

(c) *Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (DASD(MCFP))*. The DASD(MCFP), under the authority, direction, and control of the ASD(R&FM), shall:

(1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances by personnel under his or her authority, direction, and control.

(2) Oversee the DoD Voluntary Education Program.

(3) Provide ongoing and routine clarifying guidance for the DoD Voluntary Education Program.

(4) Provide representatives to professional education and cross-agency panels addressing issues impacting the DoD Voluntary Education Program, its regulatory scope, clientele, and partners.

(5) Designate the Voluntary Education Chief within the Office of the DASD(MCFP) as the Chair of the Interservice Voluntary Education Board and oversee implementation of Board and DANTES procedures as detailed in § 68.6 of this part.

(d) *Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (ASD(RA))*. The ASD(RA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), shall:

(1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances by personnel under his or her authority, direction, and control.

(2) Appoint a representative to serve on the Interservice Voluntary Education Board.

(3) Arrange the assignment of, on a rotating basis, a field grade officer, to serve as the Reserve Component Advisor to the Voluntary Education Chief within the Office of DASD(MCFP).

(e) *Secretaries of the Military Departments*. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

(1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances.

(2) Establish, maintain, coordinate, and operate voluntary education programs that encompass a broad range of educational experiences including, but not limited to, academic skills development, high school completion programs, career and technical education programs, and programs leading to the award of industry-recognized credentials, and undergraduate and graduate degrees.

(3) Require that sufficient funding is available to provide Service members with TA support consistent with the requirements in section 68.6 and appendices A, B, C, D, and E to this part.

(4) Require that educational counseling is available to Service members so they will have sufficient information and guidance to plan an appropriate program of study.

(5) Require that voluntary education programs participate in the established DoD third-party review process (*i.e.*, MVER).

(i) The third-party review assesses the quality, delivery, and coordination of the voluntary education programs provided to military personnel on the installation, in the community, and via distance learning (DL). It assists in improving the quality of the delivery of these programs through recommendations to institutions, installations, and the Military Services.

(ii) Waivers to the third-party review must be submitted to and approved by the Voluntary Education Chief within the Office of the DASD(MCFP).

(6) Provide one representative to serve on the Interservice Voluntary Education Board responsible for their Services' voluntary education policy from each of the following Military Services: Army, Navy, Air Force, and

Marine Corps. Each Service representative's membership will be on a permanent basis and changed only when their voluntary education policy position is changed.

(7) Assign, on a rotating basis, a senior enlisted Service member in pay grade E-9 to serve as the DANTES enlisted advisor.

(8) Require that military test control officers and test centers comply with the guidance and procedures published in the DANTES Examination Program Handbook, available at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/DEPH_part1.pdf.

(9) Require that personnel who provide counseling, advice, and program management related to voluntary education programs have access to the DoD Voluntary Education homepage and other Web sites so they can provide current and accurate information to Service members.

(10) Provide opportunities for Service members to access the Internet, where available, to enroll in and complete postsecondary courses that are part of their approved educational plan leading to an educational goal.

(f) *Secretary of the Navy.* The Secretary of the Navy, as the DoD Executive Agent (DoD EA) for DANTES pursuant to DoD Directive 1322.08E and DoD Directive 5101.1, and in addition to the responsibilities in § 68.5 of this part of this section, shall:

(1) Transmit annual guidance issued by the USD(P&R) to DANTES.

(2) Require that the Director, DANTES, provide updates on DANTES plans, operations, and activities to the USD(P&R).

(3) Through its civilian personnel system, advertise the position of Director, DANTES, when the position is vacated and appoint the Director, DANTES, in accordance with the procedures outlined in § 68.6.

§ 68.6 Procedures.

(a) *TA for Service members participating in education programs.* (1) TA shall be available for Service members participating in high school completion and approved courses from accredited undergraduate or graduate education programs or institutions. Approved courses are those that are part of an

identified course of study leading to a postsecondary certificate or degree and non-degree oriented language courses integral to the Defense Language Transformation Roadmap (available at <http://www.defense.gov/news/Mar2005/d20050330roadmap.pdf>).

(i) Use of TA for non-degree oriented language courses is limited to those published by the Under Secretary of Defense (P&R) on the DoD Strategic Language List.

(ii) Dominant-in-the-force languages and languages deemed by DoD as already having sufficient strategic capacity authorized will not be funded under section 2007, except for assignments outside the continental United States.

(2) TA shall be applied as follows:

(i) For 100 percent of the cost of approved high school completion programs for Service members who have not been awarded a high school or equivalency diploma and who are enrolled in such programs.

(ii) In support of the voluntary education and training of active duty Service members during their off-duty periods, each Military Service shall pay all or a portion, as specified in paragraphs (a)(2)(ii)(A) through (F) of this section, of the charges of an educational institution for education and training during the member's off-duty periods.

(A) When an institution's charges are up to or less than the limit of per semester-hour of credit or its equivalent, as specified in DoDI 1322.25, the responsible Service shall pay the entire amount charged by the institution. In computing credit equivalency, the following conversions shall apply: 1 quarter-hour credit = $\frac{2}{3}$ semester-hour credit; and 45 contact hours shall be considered equivalent to one semester-hour credit when neither semester- nor quarter-hours are specified for the education or training for which the Service member is enrolled.

(B) When an institution's charges exceed the per semester-hour of credit, or its equivalent limit as specified in DoDI 1322.25, the responsible Service shall pay no more than the specified limit per semester-unit for tuition and fees combined.